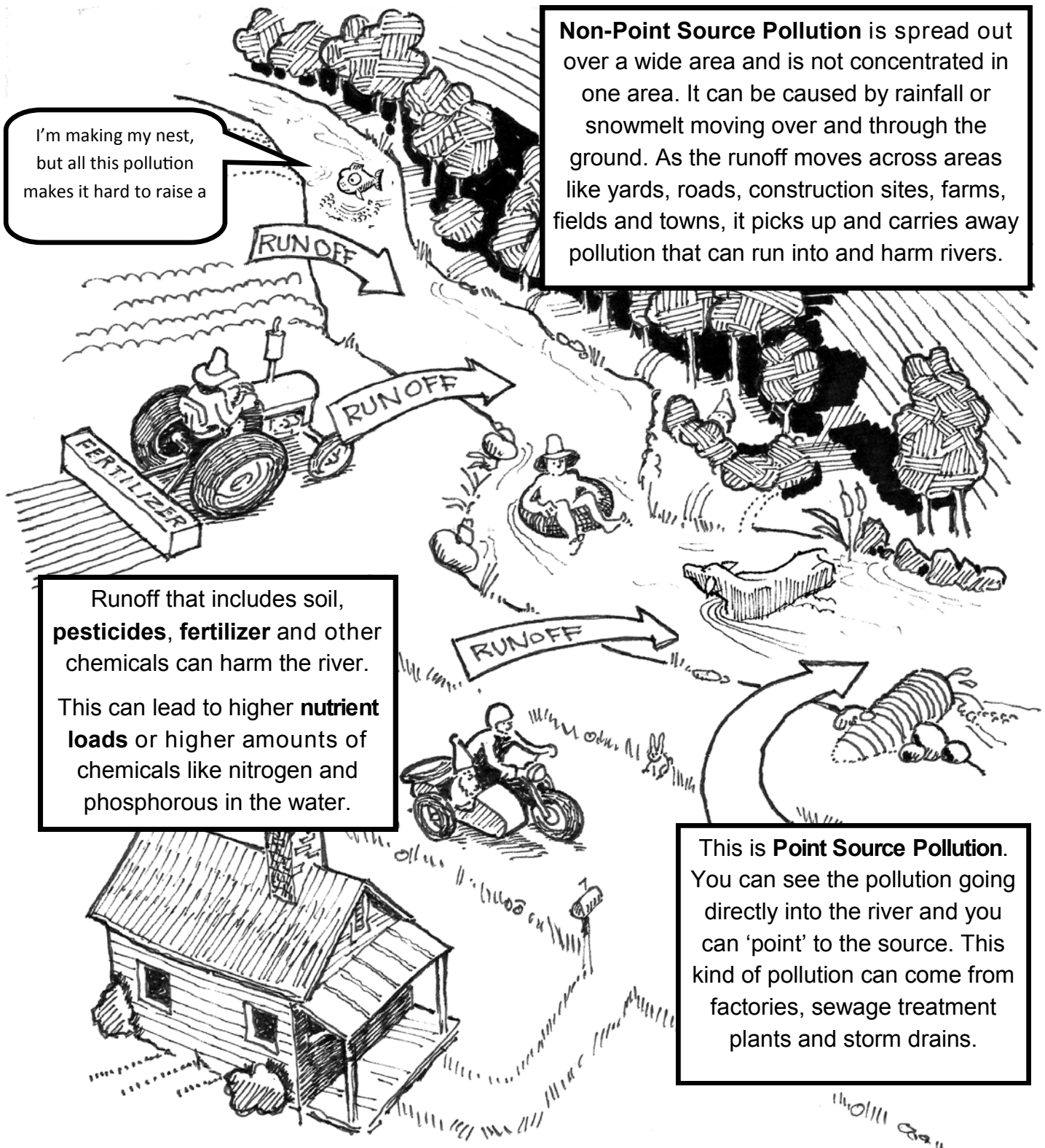


What Makes Rivers Dirty?



Non-Point Source Pollution is spread out over a wide area and is not concentrated in one area. It can be caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves across areas like yards, roads, construction sites, farms, fields and towns, it picks up and carries away pollution that can run into and harm rivers.

Runoff that includes soil, **pesticides**, **fertilizer** and other chemicals can harm the river.

This can lead to higher **nutrient loads** or higher amounts of chemicals like nitrogen and phosphorous in the water.

This is **Point Source Pollution**. You can see the pollution going directly into the river and you can 'point' to the source. This kind of pollution can come from factories, sewage treatment plants and storm drains.

Here's an experiment you can do to show **polluted runoff**. Lay a white plastic trash bag flat on the ground. Sprinkle the surface with colored sugar or spices. Spray it with water like it is raining. Make observations of how the water dissolves and carries the "pollution" into rivers of liquid on the bag.